

Applicant's method, apparatus and system claims are so related so as to prevent patentably distinct inventions. For example, use of "[a] device for storing a trailer hitch apparatus," as claimed in Group I under the restriction requirement, would infringe the "method for storing a trailer hitch apparatus," as claimed in Group II under the restriction requirement.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, the storage compartment apparatus claim would infringe the method claim.<sup>4</sup>

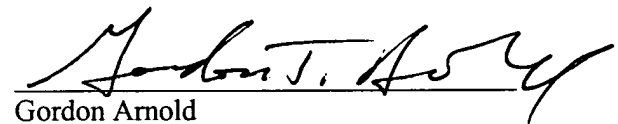
X Because the inventions are not patentably distinct, Applicant contends that a restriction requirement is improper.

### Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner reconsiders and withdraws the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 17, 2001



Gordon Arnold  
Reg. No. 32,395  
Arnold & Associates  
2603 Augusta, Suite 800  
Houston, TX 77057  
Tel: (713) 972-1150  
Fax: (713) 972-1180  
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

<sup>3</sup> Rob G. Parrish, *Trailer Rack Rack*, pages 13,15, claims 1, 21 (United States Serial Number 09/501,793, Filed 2/10/00) (Atty Docket No. P30321US).

<sup>4</sup> Rob G. Parrish, *Trailer Rack Rack*, pages 15, 18, claims 21, 37 (United States Serial Number 09/501,793, Filed 2/10/00) (Atty Docket No. P30321US).